

Message Text

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65

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 USSS-00 AID-05

SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 SSO-00 FBIE-00 /094 W

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P R 082150Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2292

INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 2691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING - NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS

REF: CARACAS 2625

1. THERE WERE NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING CASE OVER THE WEEKEND MARCH 5-7 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LEAFLET BOMB SET OFF AT THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ON MARCH 5 (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH THE PRESS AT FIRST ASSUMED THAT THE LEAFLETS REPRESENTED ANOTHER COMMUNICATION FROM NIEHOUS' CAPTORS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE VENEZUELAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (DISIP) LATER STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN THE PAMPHLETS DID NOT COME FROM THE REAL KIDNAPPERS BUT SOME OTHER GROUP USING THE SAME NAME.

2. PRESIDENT PEREZ REAFFIRMED IN MARACAIBO ON MARCH 5 THAT THE GOV IS TAKING EVERY POSSIBLE MEASURE TO LOCATE NIEHOUS' ABDUCTORS. HE STATED THAT IT WAS "HORRENDOUS AND DESPICABLE" THAT ANYBODY SHOULD BE DEPRIVED OF HIS LIBERTY AND HIS LIFE THREATENED IN VENEZUELA. PEREZ DESCRIBED NIEHOUS' KIDNAPPERS AS "COMMON CRIMINALS" BECAUSE "THERE ARE NO GUERRILLAS HERE, NOR REASONS WHY THERE SHOULD BE, SINCE WE

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LIVE WITHIN A SYSTEM OF LAW." THE PRESIDENT CATEGORICALLY

REFUTED A NEWSPAPER REPORT THAT THE FBI IS INVESTIGATING
THE NIEHOUS KIDNAPPING. "THE INVESTIGATION IS BEING
CARRIED OUT BY THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES, BY THE VENEZUELAN
POLICE FORCES, AND BY NO ONE ELSE," PEREZ SAID. "NO ONE ELSE
HAS THE AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT INVESTIGATIONS OF THIS TYPE."
SHLAUDEMAM

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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: PINS, VE, (NIEHOUS, WILLIAM F)
To: STATE
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